

DISCLOSE 2012 ACT WOULD REQUIRE CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE

Washington, DC – Elections Subcommittee Ranking Democrat Charles Gonzalez (TX) today joined Representative Chris Van Hollen (MD) and House Administration Committee Ranking Democrat Robert Brady (PA) and former Elections Subcommittee Chair Zoe Lofgren in introducing the DISCLOSE 2012 Act (Disclosure of Information on Spending on Campaigns Leads to Open and Secure Elections) .

The DISCLOSE 2012 Act would help restore the American people's trust in our elections process in the aftermath of the US Supreme Court's

zens United

decision. The House of Representatives

[passed the DISCLOSE Act in 2010](#)

, but the Republican minority blocked it in the Senate

[with 59 votes of support falling to 39 votes against](#)

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In the 2010 election, outside groups [spent \\$300 million](#) , much of it raised without any disclosure requirements. It is easy to see how closely tied so-called "Super PACs" are to the candidates they support. With a wink and nod to get around laws forbidding them to coordinate – as ably

[Colbert](#)

[demonstrated by Stephen](#)

– Super PACs are spending millions of dollars, collected in unlimited sums from the deep pockets of secret donors and corporations. Many of these groups have no obligation to disclose their donors.

[Others have used fake corporations to make a mockery of the disclosure they actually do.](#)

Passing the DISCLOSE 2012 Act would vastly improve the transparency of our elections by requiring campaign funding disclosure by Super PACs, corporations, outside groups, and lobbyists. Corporations would have to disclose their campaign expenditures to their shareholders and all groups would have to stand by their political advertisements.

"We knew this was the right thing to do two years ago, and it's only become more critical since then," said Brady. "Our system of campaign finance has become so absurd that jokes about our

democracy have become a staple of late night television and the American people are left wondering, 'Is this the best we can do?'"

"Millions of undisclosed dollars are playing an unprecedented and unwelcome role in our politics, dominating the race for the Republican presidential nomination," said Elections Subcommittee Ranking Member Charles A. Gonzalez (TX). "The forgotten part of the Citizens United decision is that eight Supreme Court justices endorsed strong disclosure requirements to keep campaign finance transparent to defend the integrity of our election system. We need to have immediate hearings on the impact of undisclosed corporate donations and how DISCLOSE 2012 can clean up our politics."

"We have seen an explosion of unlimited and secret contributions to Super PACs since the Citizens United decision," said former Elections Subcommittee Chair Zoe Lofgren. "If corporations and wealthy individuals are allowed to contribute millions of dollars to unfairly influence elections, the public has a right to know where this money came from and where it is going."

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